BOT scheme for constructing expressway

1005. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the proposed construction of expressway in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme has been involved in the construction of expressway; and

(c) if so, the details of the expressways constructed under BOT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The programme for construction of Expressways in the country has not been finalized.

(b) National Highways Authority of India had set-up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Company on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis for completion of only National Expressway No. 1 *i.e.* Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway.

(c) 93 km long Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway, designated as National Expressway-1 has been completed in two phases. In Phase-I, 43 km long expressway was completed in January, 2003. In Phase-II, 50 km long expressway has been completed in June, 2004. The total expenditure on the project up to 30th June, 2004 is Rs. 718 crore.

Banning of older vehicles on roads

1006. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering banning all motor vehicles which are more than fifteen years old from playing on the roads;

(b) if so, the details and the objective of the proposal; and

(c) whether it is proposed to exempt owners of such vehicles from payment of Excise Duty on purchase of new vehicles and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Standard time for different regions

1007. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in many countries there is a different standard time for each region of the same country;

(b) if so, whether any need has been felt to set a different standard time for different regions in our country considering the geographical and climatic conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Large countries like USA having very large east-west extent have different standard times for different regions.

(b) No Sir. Considering the fact that India is located between 68°7" E to 97° 25' E and 8° 4' N 37° 6' N, the Indian Standard time (IST) has been chosen with reference to a central station located at 82° 30' longitude east and 23° 11' latitude North. Since the expanse of the Indian State is not large, no need has been felt for different time zones. Climatic conditions do not determine standard time variations.

(c) and (d) In view of (b), do not arise.

Proposal of Department of Biotechnology on DNA profile

1008. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposals sent by the Department of Biotechnology on the DNA profiles;

(b) if so, whether the experts on the DNA Profile Advisory Body has been entrusted with the job of formulating guidelines on DNA profiling; and